Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01773 170914Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 SSO-00 /026 W
----------063590 170916Z /10
O 170855Z AUG 77
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8460
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1773

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN XC CH US OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJ: SECRETARY'S VISIT: PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

REFS: A) STATE 194174, B) PEKING 1763, C) STUBBS-KEYSER
TELCON 8/17

1. MFA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT FOREIGN PRESS LIAISON DIVISION OFFICIAL LIU JU-TSAI ASSURED EA/P DIRECTOR CANNON AND USLO OFFICER IN AUGUST 17 CONVERSATION THAT CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE HONG KONG WOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO EXPEDITE ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO SIX HONG KONG BASED JOURNALISTS (REF A). LIU SAID THAT VISAS WOULD BE ISSUED BY SHUMCHUN (SHENCHUAN) BRANCH OF CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE, OBVIATING POTENTIAL PROBLEM OF DELAYS IN SENDING PAPERWORK BETWEEN CANTON AND HONG KONG (REF C).

2. USLO PROVIDED LIU WITH TENTATIVE ITINERARY OF BUTTERFIELD, REYNOLDS, SMITH AND MORITZ: DEPART HONG KONG 8/20 FOR CANTON, OVERNIGHT IN CANTON, CAAC MORNING FLIGHT 8/21 TO PEKING.

3. EXPECTED ARRIVAL OF JAY AND LINDA MATHEWS IN HONG KONG ON AUGUST 19 (REF C) MAY PRESENT PROBLEM IN TIMELY ISSUANCE OF VISAS. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONTACT WASHINGTON POST AND LOS ANGELES TIMES TO ADVISE THAT THEIR CORRESPONDENTS
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PAGE 02 PEKING 01773 170914Z

SEEM TO BE CUTTING IT VERY CLOSE AND TO SUGGEST EARLIER ARRIVAL IN HONG KONG IF POSSIBLE. BOTH MATHEWSES WERE RECENTLY IN PRC AND PRESUMABLY UNDERSTAND NECESSITY OF ADEQUATE LEAD TIME TO PRESENT PASSPORTS AND ACQUIRE VISAS. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT TEMPORARY MISPLACEMENT, DELAYED ARRIVAL, OR BUREAUCRATIC SNAFU ON CHINESE SIDE MAY RESULT IN BELATED ARRIVAL IN PEKING.

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4. LIU ALSO REITERATED INTEREST IN HAVING PHOTOS OF ALL JOURNALISTS. SINCE USLO HAS NOT RECEIVED THESE IN TODAY'S POUCH, WE PRESUME THAT JOURNALISTS WILL HAND CARRY THEM. THESE ARE NECESSARY FOR PREPARATION OF PRESS ID CARDS, WITHOUT WHICH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FILE STORIES (PEKING 1465).

5. EA/P DIRECTOR CANNON AND USLO OFFICER HAVE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED MEETING FOR MORNING OF AUGUST 17 TO DISCUSS OVERALL PRESS PLANS WITH MFA ID INTERNATIONAL PRESS LIAISON DIVISION DIRECTOR MA YU-CHEN.
WOODCOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Errors: N/A
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Reference: 77 STATE 194174, 77 PEKING 1763
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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SAS ID: 1576610
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY\'S VISIT: PRESS ARRANGEMENTS
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, XC, CH, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
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Type: TE
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